

Volusia County Sheriff's Office

Michael J. Chitwood, Sheriff

News Release

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Crime Stoppers of Northeast 1-888-277-TIPS

January 27, 2017

For immediate release

Contact: Gary Davidson, Public Information Officer

Note: Click on the link below to view video statement from Sheriff Chitwood

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwC2sak1ioE&feature=youtu.be>

DEPUTY UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR TAKING MONEY FROM DEFENDANTS

A Volusia County Sheriff's deputy is under investigation after allegations recently surfaced of him taking money from criminal defendants. The information has been forwarded to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, which is conducting a criminal investigation in conjunction with the State Attorney's Office. The Sheriff's Office also is conducting an administrative investigation.

Multiple allegations have been received about Deputy John Braman taking money from defendants during DUI arrests. Deputy Braman was placed on administrative leave with pay on Wednesday. Braman, 33, was hired by the Sheriff's Office on Jan. 1, 2007. Braman was assigned to road patrol prior to him being placed on leave. Before that, he worked as a motorcycle deputy in the Sheriff's Office's traffic unit.

Saying he was very disappointed to make the announcement about the investigation, Sheriff Mike Chitwood added: "Integrity is the cornerstone of any law enforcement officer's career. Once you lose your integrity, you've lost your ability to be an effective law enforcement officer." Sheriff Chitwood's full statement can be viewed by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwC2sak1ioE&feature=youtu.be>

Due to the active investigations, no further comments or information is being released at this time.